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**Prevention of armed conflict**

**General and complete disarmament**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-eighth year**

## Identical letters dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish to draw your attention to the following information.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has sent you several letters informing you of the reality of the terrorist attacks against it and its people, attacks that are backed by certain Arab, regional and Western States in pursuit of their own schemes and interests.

Moreover, since the current situation in the country began to unfold, the Government has regularly notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations and successive Presidents of the Security Council that certain States, foremost among which are Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have repeatedly violated their commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and provisions of international law. Along with other States, they have backed the armed terrorist groups, providing them with funds, arms, military materiel, training and political and media support.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic now wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary-General, the President and members of the Security Council and other Member States of the United Nations to the statements regarding the Syrian Arab Republic that are contained in the report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya (S/2013/99):

- In paragraphs 37 and 67 to 70 of its report, the Panel highlights significant transfers of arms and fighters from Libya to several other locations including the Syrian Arab Republic. The Panel states that it has gathered evidence of the transfer of ammunition from Qatar to Libya, and that it found such



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ammunition during its inspections abroad in illicit transfers of materiel from Libya to other countries, including a transfer destined for the Syrian opposition. In paragraph 170, the Panel states that the significant size of some shipments and the logistics involved suggest that representatives of the Libyan local authorities might have at least been aware of the transfers, if not actually directly involved.

- In paragraphs 113, 114, 117, 158 and 168, the Panel indicates that the Syrian Arab Republic has presented a prominent destination for Libyan fighters, adding that a number of them have joined brigades as individuals or through networks to support the Syrian opposition. Transfers of weapons and Libyan military materiel have been organized under the supervision, or with the consent, of a range of actors in Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic and in countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic, through networks and routes passing through either Turkey or northern Lebanon.

- With regard to the case of the *Letfallah II*, in paragraphs 71, 171 and 178 of its report, the Panel confirmed that the ship's cargo consisted of Libyan arms and ammunition that were transferred in breach of the arms embargo imposed on Libya. The arms included short range surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank guided missiles and various types of small, light and heavy weapons and ammunition. During its inspection of the materiel on board the vessel, the Panel found a box of ammunition with markings indicating that it is the property of the Qatar armed forces.

- In paragraphs 183 to 188, the Panel notes that, in September 2012, it was reported in *The Times* that a Libyan ship named *Al Entisar* had carried the largest consignment of weapons from Libya to Turkey, and that some of the 400 tons of materiel on board the ship had been transferred to the Syrian opposition.

- In paragraph 192 of its report, the Panel states that it had contacted the Belgian authorities to trace a number of assault rifles photographed in the Syrian Arab Republic in the hands of rebel fighters who said that the rifles had been sent from Libya. The results of the tracing indicate that the rifles were in fact part of a shipment containing rifles that had been found in Libya.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic believes that the substance of the Panel's report confirms the destructive role being played by certain States and that foreign intervention is exacerbating the crisis in Syria. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the transfer of arms purchased with Qatari and Saudi Arabian funds from Libya and other parts of the world to Syria through Turkey and parts of northern Lebanon is an act of aggression and a blatant violation of international law and the principles and purposes of the United Nations. It is also a grave violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2, paragraph 4, which provides that Members States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State; the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted on 24 October 1970; and the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), as well as resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic therefore calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to condemn these acts of aggression that are targeted at the entire Syrian State, including its territory, Government and people, and hold responsible the relevant States and take the measures required to hold them accountable for their actions and compel them to desist from their destructive practices.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 94 and 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative